

7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grand Prize Winner –  
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There is potential within each of us. We can all make a difference, and greatness is achieved on a personal level. Our greatness will affect the people around us, though it will not always leave as lasting an effect as we hope.

Think of a symphony. There are multiple instruments, many players, and each person could easily be lost in the mass of musicians. But every player has a piece to perform, and when you combine all the different melodies, a beautiful masterpiece is produced. We should all strive to make an impact, even if we aren't noticed.

The melodies are remembered much more than the beats, yet they cannot act on their own. One person can begin to make a difference, but not necessarily on a large scale. In order for massive change to occur, the melodies must be backed up by the harmonies and the beats. This is true in a symphony and in life. Martin Luther King Jr. was a melody. He left his mark on society, but without the people who followed him, and acted on his teachings, Dr. King would have just been an idea, a voice lost in a mass of other voices. Not every melody is remembered, and not everyone can be a melody.

There will also be harmonies, people who follow the footsteps of those who have gone before and build upon their legacy. The harmonies won't be recognized as much, but they will expand upon the greatness of others. Martin Luther King, Jr. paved the way for us to eliminate racism, discrimination, and segregation. But if we do nothing about it, if all we do is remember, then the world will never improve. His ideas will dissolve in the commotion of the world. We must act upon what has been left behind, and try to continue his harmonies.

The percussion isn't as noticed, but they help move the music. In life, the beats act individually, and some of us must be content to be the beat. The people who perform small acts of service in everyday life are what make up the beats. Mothers who sacrifice to stay at home with their kids. Fathers who sacrifice to feed, clothe, and provide for their families. Teachers who sacrifice to teach the rising

generation. These are the truly great people of today. Their names won't go into history books; no one will sing their praises. They are glorious, though. Their influences are what will change the world, as the youth will follow their examples and try to create a world full of great people.

You may not be a melody, but that does not mean you can't make a difference. The melodies must be backed by the harmonies and the beats, and even the small acts of kindness leave an impact on the world. That is what determines greatness---service, kindness, and love. Not fame. Make your life count for something, whether on a grand scale or on a small one.